

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon. Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter, July 16, 1881. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance. (BY MAIL) Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$3.00...

Portland, Wednesday, July 10, 1912.

THE CALIFORNIA CASE

"How do you justify the action of the Republican National convention in seating the California Taft delegates in defiance of the expressed will of the people of that state?"

The Oregonian has not sought to justify the convention in its action as to California. It will not. It has thought that it would have been wise to let California have a solid Roosevelt delegation.

But we will offer a few brief statements of fact for the consideration of our excited friend. Here they are: First—The National Committee issued a call for a convention, distinctly calling for the election of delegates by Congressional districts, except in states where primary laws already in force provided otherwise.

Second—The State of California subsequently passed a Presidential primary law ignoring the historic principle of district representation and providing for the election of all delegates at large.

Third—California went largely for Roosevelt, but one district (San Francisco) gave a small plurality for Taft.

Fourth—The National convention took cognizance of the fact that the Roosevelt party had deliberately sought to override and defeat the National convention's rule for district representation, and seated the two Taft delegates, leaving undisturbed the twenty-four Roosevelt delegates.

Fifth—If California by its fiat may change the practice of a Republican National convention, why may not California or any other state change or ignore any other provision of the call for a convention, such, for example, as the apportionment?

Sixth—Is it California's sovereign right to prescribe the terms, conditions, limitations and qualifications of delegates to a National convention, or the convention's right to determine upon what terms, conditions and limitations California shall elect them?

Seventh—We ask our disturbed friend to consider fairly and candidly these suggestions. We do not assert that the National convention is wholly right or entirely interested in seating the Taft delegates. Not at all. But we declare unhesitatingly that it is a question upon which honest men may honestly differ.

Eighth—The call is addressed to those who "realize that today the power of the crooked political bosses and of the privileged classes behind him is so strong in the two old party organizations of our country can come out of either."

Ninth—The crooked political bosses and privileged classes are not strong in either the Republican or Democratic party. By his course since the first year of his Administration, President Taft, the recognized leader of the Republican party, has shown his independence of bosses and his unswerving hostility to privilege.

Tenth—The Democratic party has approved his course and recommended a continuance of it. It has declared its adherence to popular rule as provided in the Constitution. The Democratic party, who expressly rejected the support of the bosses and the privilege-seekers, and by its platform, proved its independence of such control.

Eleventh—Before the Roosevelt men brand the existing parties as boss-ridden they should pursue their own ranks of bosses. There are bosses, so called, in the ranks of both old parties, but they do not control. So there are among the self-styled progressives, New York contributors Barnes to the Republican party, and Woodruff to the Democrats, but a Ward and a Woodruff to the progressives, Pennsylvania has its Penrose among the Republicans, but it also has its Guffey among the Democrats, so it goes in other states.

progressive movement? It finds expression in the platform of both old parties. We all believe in progress, but we disagree as to what it is.

Who does not believe in "the right and capacity of the people to rule themselves," or that "government by the few tends to become government by the sordid influences?"

Who does not believe in the guiding principles of legislation laid down in the call? They are so general that either of the old parties can with good show of reason contend that its platform conforms to them.

There is no occasion to talk of industrial revolution, or principles of industrial evolution laid down by Mr. Dixon. We all believe in wholesome party government in the spirit of service to the whole country and none of us deny obligation to obey the eighth commandment in politics as in all other things.

Combining phrases that have been so much used as to wear out the tongue but not the glory of the Best People on Earth this week. They have landed in our midst, and following incredulous gasp at open-handed hospitality, have become of us, for time being, when they depart and should they return.

In a measure, Portland has not been unknown to them. The Lewis and Clark Fair seven years ago brought visitors from primal and intermediate points of the compass, who saw the city at the beginning of its second growth, who were charmed by the welcome extended and pleased by entertainment that surpassed expectations.

But that had an overshadowing dollar mark, for an ever-present consideration that year was the price cost. Yet it never obtruded, and nearly all hoped for a return, to visit or locate.

This time there is a difference. The event is joyous, not sighsinging, or sordid. Members of the order, their wives and their friends find a city more than a hundred squares miles compact in the business circles with breathing room in which to dwell; its marts of trade veritable canyons deep between towering steel; its public utilities collectively an amazing wonder, not the least being abundance of the finest water on the globe from the perennial shed of Hood; a temperate climate could not be more happily combined with sunshine all day long to harmonize the northwest breeze from the mouth of the great river; an atmosphere so clear as to show the surrounding peaks in their grandeur; a busy, work-a-day people, yet not so engrossed to quit the smile, the handshake and the word of welcome to the citizens.

These visitors are great people. They could not be Elks and be otherwise, for they are of the salt of the earth. They are the vanguard of the country, the presiding force for good, in annihilating distance to come to this far corner of the Nation they have conferred on Portland an honor that can be met only by the welcome they are receiving, the best the city has in the simple way it knows.

DEATH OF THE CAMORRA. The conviction and condemnation of the Camorrista proves that organized government can destroy any criminal conspiracy, no matter how powerful, secret or widespread it may be. It is the government sets to work to wipe out at any cost. The Camorra owed its long immunity to the fact that the Bourbon government of Naples, under which it gained its greatest power, was itself in essence a crime and was driven to make terms with the secret band of conspirators as a condition of its continued existence.

Italy has scattered the band of malefactors which has for centuries held Southern Italy in terror, but she cannot safely stop there. A society which has so long existed, fear of which has become traditional with the people and which thrives on ignorance, crime and that sacred which is the power of the masses in the popular imagination, dies hard. The fragments which remain free will have an instinctive tendency to coalesce. Only by constant vigilance and relentless pursuit of any who attempt to revive the conspiracy can it be finally extirpated.

THE CASE OF JUDGE ARCHBOLD. By proposing to defer until after the election trial of the impeachment charges against Judge Archbold certain Senators display the utter moral obliqueness as regards the gravity of the case and their utter incapacity to gauge rightly the condition of public opinion as to the position of Judges. To palter with such a case at a time when the whole country is full of discussion as to unfitness of some judges, and to insist on the best of them from the bench is crass Bourbonism which can only bring upon those responsible the fate which befell the Bourbons.

If Archbold is guilty of the charges which have been made against him by the unanimous vote of the House committee, he is unfit to be judge and the people have a right to be rid of him with the least possible delay consistent with full hearing and fair consideration of the evidence. It matters not whether Archbold is convicted of a crime against the law or moral obliqueness as regards the gravity of the case and their utter incapacity to gauge rightly the condition of public opinion as to the position of Judges.

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distinction in mind and act accordingly. Not only are the people entitled to prompt trial of the impeachment; Archbold himself is equally entitled to prompt action. It is intolerable that a judge accused of misconduct should be under suspicion of being innocent, he is entitled to prompt vindication; if guilty, he should know his fate without delay. An impeachment corresponds to a grand jury indictment, and an impeached judge is as fully entitled to a speedy trial as is a man indicted for crime. That right is guaranteed by the Constitution.

These considerations have caused an impeachment trial to be held procedure of the highest privilege, which takes precedence over all other business of the Senate. To attempt to postpone it to some ordinary day is to deprive both the people and the accused of mere political considerations which should have no weight.

A CHAUTAUQUA SUGGESTION. The Oregon Chautauqua season is now open and the various assemblies are running full blast. We are not among those who look with cultured scorn upon these efforts to educate the great public. On the contrary, they have our warmest sympathy. When able recreation which is the best thing the colleges could do to adopt some of the Chautauqua ideas and open their doors more widely to the people. There is no good reason why college courses should be followed mainly by cases as well as to the young.

Mr. Belasco believes that one of the consequences of his actor's school will be a shift of the morals of the stage. He does not accept the opinion that "the stage is immoral because the public so degrades." He holds that the public prefers an invigorating moral atmosphere at the theater and that it would be a good investment to present elevating plays, or at any rate plays which do not detract from the conscience. How to do so is the question. Mr. Belasco believes that the key to the problem is the adequate education of actors. Instead of pleading fallaciously that plays can not rise above the morals of the public his doctrine is that they can not rise above the morals and manners of the actors. Given a year at the Chautauqua, the confidence thus imparted will tend to encourage merchants to stock up for a good Fall trade, which is sure to follow another year of such steady advance. Several roads report decided gains in gross, although net results are sometimes unsatisfactory owing to the large increase in expenses. Probably there will be no strike on part of the operators whose demands for better wages are now in course of arbitration. Bank clearing indicates a commercial activity in all parts of the country; the weekly increases being maintained in spite of lessened speculation activity.

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tion of English. He can be heard in every part of the theater whether he shouts or whimpers and every syllable that drops from his tongue is perfectly formed. The new generation scorns to speak distinctly. It mumbles, lispes and stutters. It does not articulate. Many people can remember a time when "elocutionists" used to go about the country exhibiting their art. Audiences gathered to listen to them in schoolhouses, country churches and public halls. They recited such selections as "The Polish Boy," "Hamlet's Soliloquy," "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight" and a hundred more of the same sort. Much of it was sentimental, but none was bad and the beauty of their delivery was genuinely educative to their audiences. It provided for the rising generation of Americans something of that language culture which Mr. Belasco says foreigners obtain at the theater. Of late the "elocutionist" has disappeared and the moving picture show, with other things still less admirable, has taken his place. The picture shows are silent, but they do deprave the speech of the public even if they fail to improve it. In this respect they are far ahead of the theater which actually sets a wretched example. Girls who hear Mrs. Fliskemumble utter inaudible lines in Rosmersholm must think it fine to imitate her. When boys hear a popular actor speak like a North End tough they naturally do the same. We are imitative animals, as Mr. Belasco well says, and owing to the total depravity of our natures we are more apt to imitate the bad than the good.

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